

# THE BLITZ

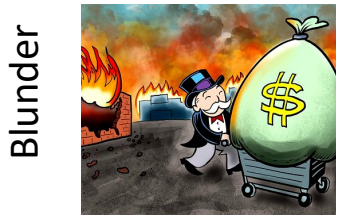
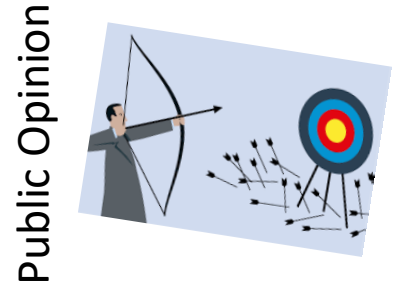
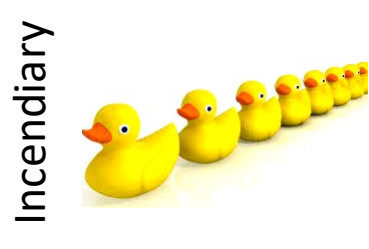


# Britain and the Blitz - key words starter

**Mission:** to match 8 unit key words with images and definitions



Incendiary



One after another

Ordinary, everyday people - not in the armed forces or government

Mistake or error

Wife

The mood and feeling of the people in a country

Stealing from shops or business - usually during a crisis or disaster

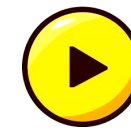
Something designed to create fire

To prepare for a dangerous situation - and to make things as safer

Word	Definition	Translate / Similar
Precaution		
Missus		Sp _ _ _ _
Incendiary		
Looting		
Public Opinion		
Consecutive		
Civilians		C _ _ _ _ s
Blunder		F _ _ _

# The Blitz Begins - September 7th, 1940

6 mins



**Mission:** to understand why Hitler changed his strategy from land to air attack.

- Civilian
- Fight
- France
- British
- Blitz
- Russian
- Submission
- Scary
- Soviet
- Blunders
- Fighters
- Bombers
- Defeat
- Grams
- RAF
- Bombs
- Terror
- Stray
- Consecutive
- Hide

After the successful invasion and occupation of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ e it was only a matter of time before Hitler turned his sights across the English Channel. Hitler wanted to batter and weaken Britain so that he could concentrate on his plans for invasion of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Union, without British interference. Since June 1940, the Germans had attacked English vessels in the Channel. During the Battle of Britain, aerial battles had been fought, as Germany tried to smash the Royal Air Force before launching a full-scale invasion. Due to the remarkable bravery and skill of the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots, Germany failed, + Hitler was forced to change his strategy. A land invasion was believed to be unrealistic; instead, Hitler chose (4) \_\_\_\_\_ as his new weapon of choice.

On September 7, 1940, over 300 fully loaded (5) \_\_\_\_\_ left Germany to attack London. This would be the first of 57 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ nights of bombing. British intelligence had an idea of the coming German bombardment. Evidence from the interrogation of German spies had led them to the correct conclusion that Germany was going to attack from the air. Unfortunately, this realisation was came too late as the London docks were already being hit from the onslaught of Day One of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_. By the end of the day, German planes had dropped 337 (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of bombs on London. Even though (9) \_\_\_\_\_ populations were not the primary target that day, the poorest of London slum areas-the East End-felt the fallout from direct hits of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ bombs as well as the fires that broke out and spread throughout the area. Four hundred and forty-eight civilians were killed throughout the afternoon and evening.

A state of emergency broke out in England; and Civil Defence volunteers were put to the ready. One of Hitler's key strategic (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of the war was to consistently underestimate the will and courage of the British

1: How did the Battle of Britain lead to the Blitz?

---

2: What was the main aim of the German Blitz?

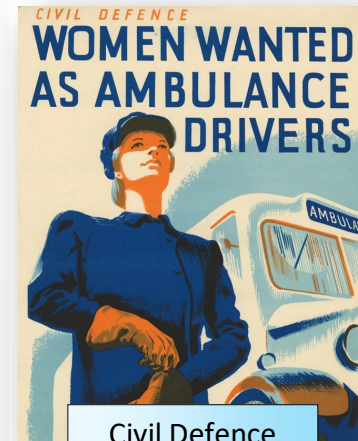
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3: What was the main mistake Hitler made ?

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Battle of Britain



Civil Defence



The Morning After



# The Blitz Begins - September 7th, 1940

6 mins



**Mission:** to understand why Hitler changed his strategy from land to air attack.

Civilian

After the successful invasion and occupation of **France**, it was only a matter of time before Hitler turned his sights across the English Channel. Hitler wanted to batter and weaken Britain so that he could concentrate on his plans for invasion of the **Soviet** Union, without British interference. Since June 1940, the Germans had attacked English vessels in the Channel. During the Battle of Britain, aerial battles had been fought, as Germany tried to smash the Royal Air Force before launching a full-scale invasion. Due to the remarkable bravery and skill of the **RAF** pilots, Germany failed, and Hitler was forced to change his plan and war strategy. A land invasion was believed to be unrealistic; instead, Hitler chose sheer **terror** as his new weapon of choice.

Fight

France

British

Blitz

Russian

Submission

Scary

Soviet

Blunders

Fighters

Bombers

Defeat

Grams

RAF

Bombs

Terror

Stray

Consecutive

Hide

On September 7, 1940, over 300 fully loaded **bombers** left Germany to attack London. This would be the first of 57 **consecutive** nights of bombing. British intelligence had had an idea of the coming German bombardment. Evidence from the interrogation of German spies had led them to the correct conclusion that Germany was going to attack from the air. Unfortunately, this realisation was came too late as the London docks were already being hit from the onslaught of Day One of the **Blitz**. By the end of the day, German planes had dropped 337 **tons** of bombs on London. Even though **civilian** populations were not the primary target that day, the poorest of London slum areas-the East End-felt the fallout from direct hits of **stray** bombs as well as the fires that broke out and spread throughout the area. Four hundred and forty-eight civilians were killed throughout the afternoon and evening.

A state of emergency broke out in England; and Civil Defence volunteers were put to the ready. One of Hitler's key strategic **blunders** of the war was to consistently underestimate the will and courage of the British people.

1: How did the Battle of Britain lead to the Blitz?

---

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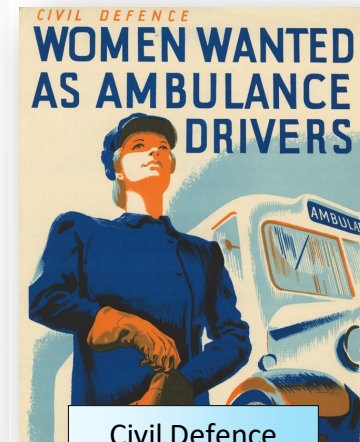
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3: What was the main mistake Hitler made ?

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Battle of Britain



Civil Defence



The Morning After



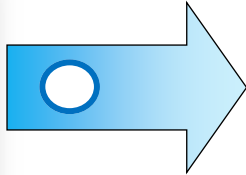
# The Blitz Sources and Summary


8 mins



**Mission** - to learn about 4 key aspects of the Blitz.

Task : 1: colour code or label ( 1-4 ) each of the four circles below. 2 : Match with the sources provided 3 : Write a few sentences about each category below.  
4 : Answer question prompts.

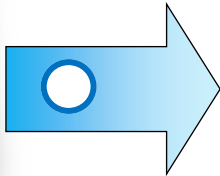



**Protection and Precautions** 

\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Always carry this?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

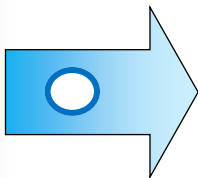



**Effects of the Bombs** 

\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Two types of shelter?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

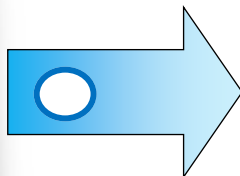



**The Blitz Spirit** 

\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

**The woman is probably drinking?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Children of the Blitz** 

\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

**The children picked last?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A** "The children arrived in the countryside, tired, hungry and uncertain whether they would ever see their families again. They were taken to the village hall, where they would be met by the **billeting officer** (the person in charge of finding them homes). A 'pick-you-own evacuee' sessions would then take place, where **host families** (the people they were going to live with) haggled over the most presentable children while the sicklier and grubbier children were left until last..'



**B**

'My missus was just making me a cup of tea for when I came 'ome. She were in the passage between the kitchen and the wash-'ouse, where it blowed 'er. She were burnt right up to 'er waist. 'Er legs were just two cinders... and 'er face... The only thing I could recognize 'er by was one of 'er boots... I'd 'ave lost fifteen 'omes if I could 'ave kept my missus.'

Hull Air Raid Warden.

**D**

Hitler expects to terrorise and cow the people of this mighty city... Little does he know the spirit of the British nation, or the tough fibre of the Londoners.

Winston Churchill, broadcast 11 September 1940.

**E**



**F**

'We had heard it before, mainly when they were testing and practising in the event of an air raid. This was for real, we all heard the intermittent drone of the German bombers high overhead on this particular day and the teachers herded us all into a concrete air raid shelter in the corner of the girl's playground. We sat in there and just listened. There seemed to be many bombers in the sky, but our school barrage balloon was not high enough at that stage to do any real harm. I will never forget the noise of those German planes, but fortunately all of their bombs fell pretty wide of our school. We could hear the strange whistle as the bombs screamed earthwards, then there came the explosions in the distance. This went on for approximately half an hour before we heard the sound of the all clear. That raid made me really frightened that day.'

Jim Hepting - Child Evacuee.

**C**

This meant going shelter each night and staying there, except for trips to the toilet during quiet periods. We also had a couple who lived next door and used to come into our shelter, so there were six of us trying to sleep in this small area, and then next morning go to work, if it was still there. One night, the houses behind us were hit. Luckily it was a small bomb, a 250 pounder, and it demolished the top half of both houses. When this happened, the dust from the explosion was so thick it could cause death to anyone trapped. After the explosions, we always went through the drill of calling out our neighbours' names to see if they escaped injury. Luckily they had all survived in their Anderson shelters. Not everyone had Anderson shelters, some had a shelter that used the kitchen table, turning it into a sort of cage. Not very good if the house was hit, because dust then became the killer.

Denis' Story. Findmypast.co.uk

**G**

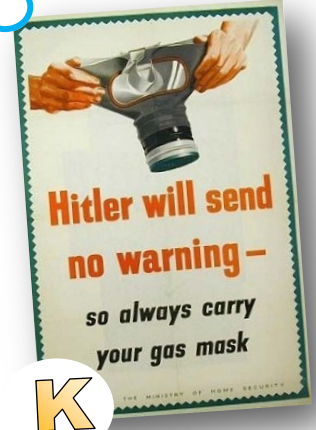


During training I had instructed my men to treat the dead with reverence and respect, but I did not think we would have to shovel them up. Now this job had to be done with a stiff yard broom, a garden rake and shovel. We had to throw buckets of water up the wall to wash it down. The only tangle things were a man's hand with a bent ring on a finger, a woman's foot in a shoe on a window sill. In one corner of the garden was a bundle of something held together with a leather strap, as I disturbed it it fell to pieces steaming. It was part of a torso. The stench was something awful and it clung to my nostrils for some time after; in fact I never lost that smell until some time after the war was over. We gathered about six bags of bits and pieces; one pathetic little bundle, shapeless now, tied with bits of lace and ribbon, had been a baby."

**H**



**J**



**K**

My mother had had now had enough of London and the terrible danger of remaining there during these raids so she finally decided that we would all be evacuated. I was sent to Cornwall, a little village named Goonhavern, where I lived with a very nice family, named Eplett. My mother went with the youngest children to Luton in Bedfordshire. My father stayed in London, as he had a job to do as an air raid warden. In fact we were scattered all over the country.

**O**

All reports from London are agreed that the population is seized by fear. The Londoners have completely lost their self-control.

Nazi-controlled French radio, 18 September 1940

**M**

The terrible experiences and emotions of the battlefield are now shared by the entire population. Old men, little children, the crippled, the veterans of former wars, aged women, the hard-pressed citizen, the sturdy workman with his hammer in the shipyard, the members of every kind of ARP service, are proud to feel that they stand in the line together with our fighting men. This, indeed, is a grand, heroic period of our history, and the light of glory shines upon all.

Winston Churchill, broadcast 27 April 1941.

**P**

By the end of the Second World War around 3.5 million people, mainly children had experienced evacuation. No one was forced to go but parents were encouraged by posters and told that their children would be safer from German bombs if they moved to the country.

Primaryhomeoworkhelp.co.uk

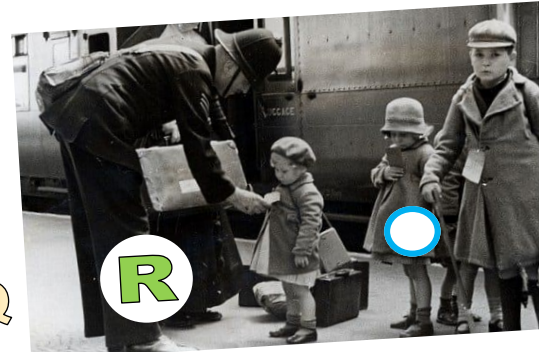
**Q**



**N**



**L**



**R**

Stanley Rothwell - ARP Warden - Lambeth, London.



# BEAT THE BLITZ



PUBLIC  
NOTICES

YOUR  
LOCAL  
WARDEN'S  
POST

HAS

INFORMATION-CONCERNING

A·R·P


AND

CIVIL-DEFENCE  
MATTERS

# VOLUNTEER!



# Air Raid Precaution

 **Mission:** to choose one or more activity options.

## Source A

"If air raids ever come to this country... ask for advice. A local Air Raid Precautions organisation has been established in your district and Air Raid Wardens have been appointed to help you. All windows, skylights, glazed doors ... must be completely screened after dusk so that no light is visible from outside. Clear the attic or top floor of all paper, litter, lumber, to lessen the danger of fire and prevent fire from spreading."

**Advice - Sir John Anderson.**

## Source B

"By the time that I joined, the public was already grumbling that the full-time Civil Defence personnel were a waste of money - a set of slackers, after easy jobs... I was given a tin hat, a whistle, and a CD respirator. The Post Warden one afternoon conducted me on the tour of the seventeen public shelters in the area... I gathered that a warden's main duty was to report any bombs which fell in his area. The Post itself was in a basement of an old house. It was not strengthened in any way."

**Barbara Nixon, Warden - 1941**

The plans to create a system of Air Raid Precautions began in 1935 - four years before the start of World War 2. By 1937 the government had set up the Air Raid Wardens' Service. Although the number of Air Raid Precaution wardens differed from place to place on average there was about 10 warden posts per mile with 3-6 (or sometimes more) per post. The Women's Voluntary Service was set up in 1938 to include women in ARP.

The roles of Air Raid Wardens varied. From 1938 they helped give out Anderson Shelters to those who had space. Wardens helped set up and organise communal shelter for those who didn't have their own space. From September 1939 they helped enforce a 'Blackout'. This was to ensure that all light from residential houses was not visible from the skies above. Windows had to be covered with curtain, cardboard or paint. This did lead to some resentment with accounts of some wardens being considered nosey by residents.

A good Air Raid Warden would know the people in their area and their routines. Thus, if a bomb fell they could quickly determine where people were and if they may need rescuing. Once an air raid took place wardens would help warn people and get them to shelters as needed. They carried a whistle, rattle, bucket and hose to help put out fires caused by the falling bombs. During a raid, wardens stayed on the streets checking their sector. After a bomb hit, wardens were often first on the scene to help the injured and make the area as safe as possible by warning of dangerous structures such as collapsing walls and falling masonry. After an air raid, they would inform local authorities as to the location of any exploded or unexploded bombs.

The ARP wardens made up part of the Civil Defence Volunteers. Ambulance drivers, firewatchers, rescue and stretcher bearers were other roles that ordinary people volunteered for. Over 1.9 million men, women and even boys and girls aged 15-18 joined.



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**Source C**

It has started! If they keep this up for another week, the war will be over. The East End won't be able to stand much more of this sort of thing. What's more, the Fire Brigade won't be able to stand much more of it either. This is the first leave I've had since Thursday... Down came the bombs. You could hear the HEs going over the top with a low whistling sound. After a moment or two they started in with the incendiaries and dropped a Molotov over the docks. There was fire in every direction. The City was turned into an enormous, loosely-stacked furnace, belching black smoke.

**Air Raid Warden ( London ) , 1941**

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**Source D**

"When the siren sounded we would hurry to the shelters, ticking off the names of the residents in their areas as they arrived, then back they went to hurry and chivvy the laggards and see that those who chose to stay in their houses were all right... They carried children, old people, bundles of blankets, and the odd personal possessions which some eccentrics insisted on taking with them to the shelters."

**Francis Faviell—ARP ( London ) 1958**

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**Source E**

"I go into a house, decide who's alive and who's dead, tot up the number of victims and what is necessary in the way of fire services, ambulances, demolition etc... Women warders are better than men in most cases... They can see in a moment who is in the house because they know what to look for. If the kettle is on the stove they know the occupants are probably downstairs and have not gone to bed; if there is a cot they know there is a baby about somewhere."

**Senior Warden.**

---

**Source F**


"I looked up at the wall of the house, as I lifted my torch and I could see what looked like treacle sliding down the wall. I realized what it was, and seeing that nothing could be done in the darkness, I took my squad back to the depot to report what I had seen and to prepare to come back at daybreak with shrouds and the death wagon to do the unsavory job of picking up the bits and pieces. This macabre business was to be my lot for the rest of the war. During training I had instructed my men to treat the dead with reverence and respect, but I did not think we would have to shovel them up. Now this job had to be done with a stiff yard broom, a garden rake and shovel. We had to throw buckets of water up the wall to wash it down. The only tangible things were a man's hand with a bent ring on a finger, a woman's foot in a shoe on a window sill. In one corner of the garden was a bundle of something held together with a leather strap, as I disturbed it it fell to pieces steaming. It was part of a torso. The stench was something awful and it clung to my nostrils for some time after; in fact I never lost that smell until some time after the war was over. We gathered about six bags of bits and pieces; one pathetic little bundle, shapeless now, tied with bits of lace and ribbon, had been a baby."

**Stanley Rothwell - Warden - Lambeth, London.**

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# Air Raid Precaution Warden Review

 **Mission:** to review the work and experiences of ARP Wardens.

1. Plans to create a system of Air Raid \_\_\_\_\_ began in \_\_\_\_\_, four years before WW2.

---

2. Their, where on average 8 warden posts per mile.

---

3. Only men could volunteer to be an air raid warden.

---

4. Give 3 roles / jobs of an ARP warden.

---

5. A good ARP warden would know ....

---

6. fires hose carried An a bucket and to put warden out any ARP.

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7. Clear the attic ( l \_ \_ \_ ) or all paper, lumber ( w \_ \_ \_ ) , to lessen the danger of fire.

---

8. After an air raid, a warden's main duty was to .... ( read source B )

---

9. " ... I lifted my torch and I could see what looked like treacle sliding down the wall."

---

10. hTe RPA esdawrdns eamd pu atrp fo hte viilC eefcDen osleeuntVr.

---



Complete



Fix 3 Errors



Ture / False



List



Finish me



Unscramble



Synonym



Finish me



Meaning?



Code Breaker







**BEAT THE BLITZ**

**PUBLIC OPINION**

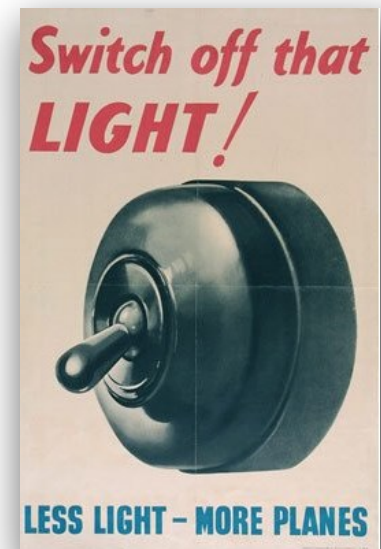
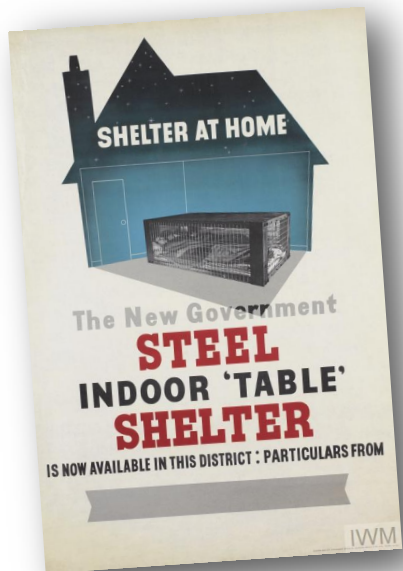
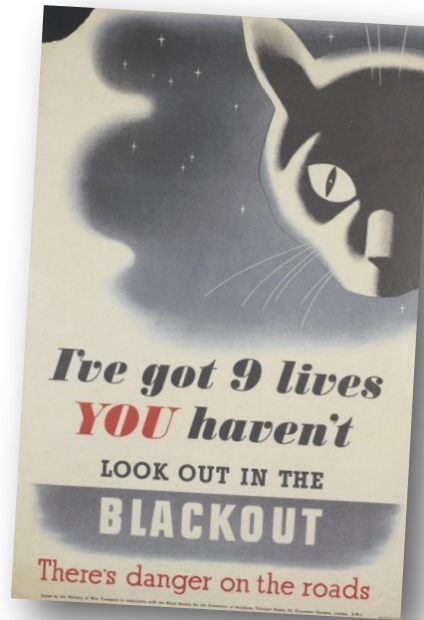


# Perfect, persuasive, pieces of propaganda?

17 mins



**Mission:** to create your own piece of war propaganda. To make the British Public feel safe and raise their spirits if the bombs fall!



# Blitz Propaganda ...

T1: Which poster do you think is the most effective?

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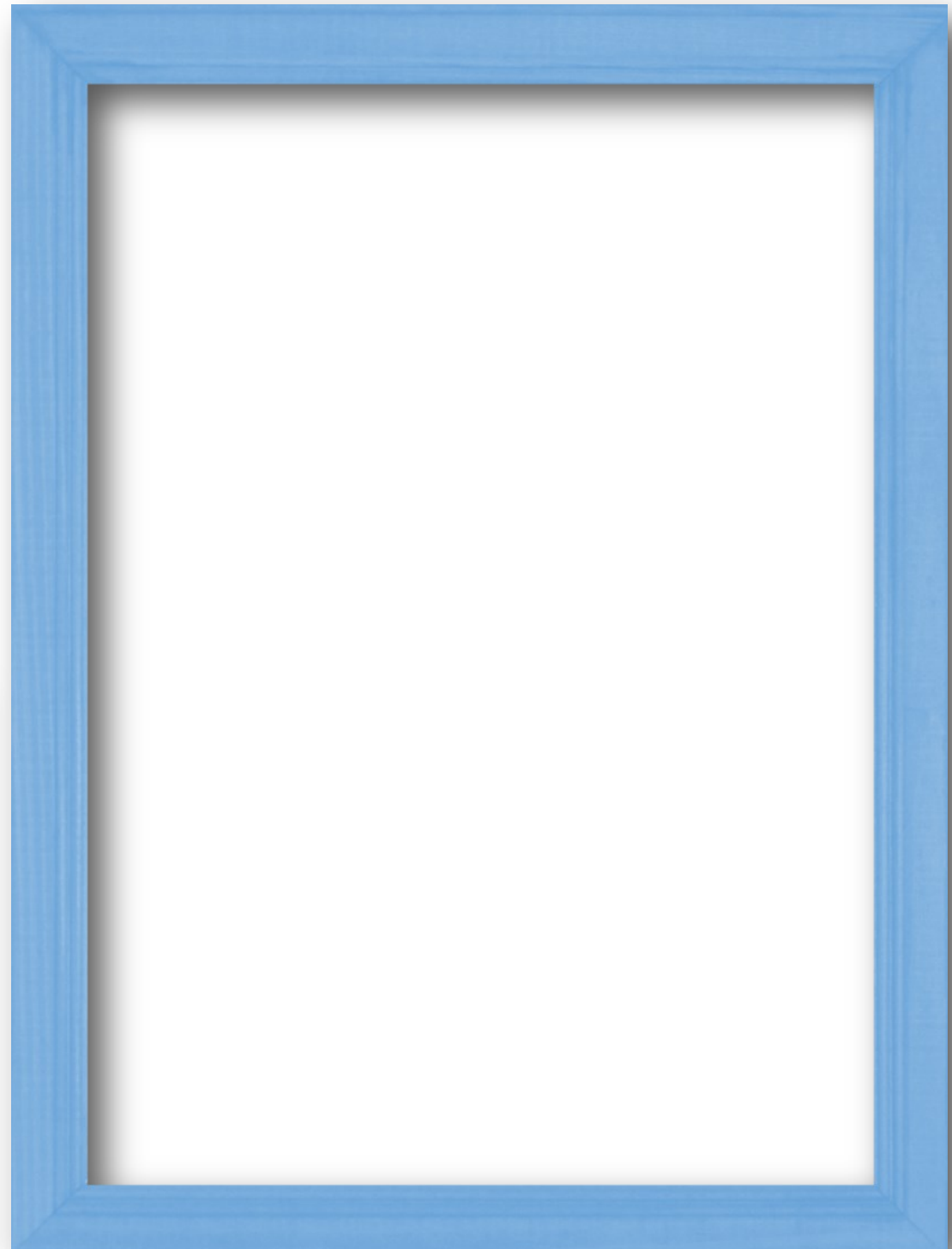
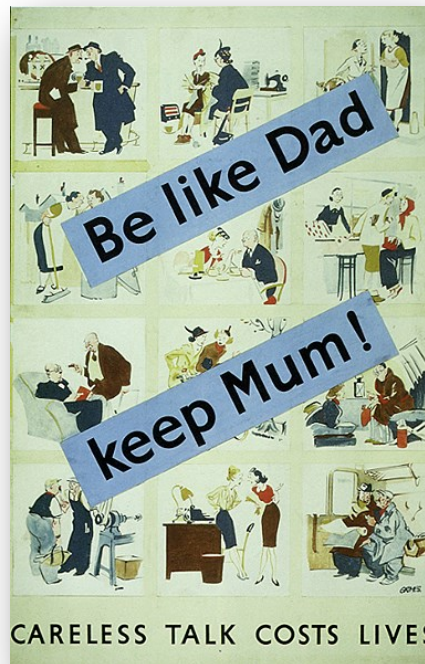
T2: Give one link between two of the posters.

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T3: Create your own example of propaganda aimed at making the British people feel safe, volunteering or just raising their spirits. Good propaganda will appeal to emotions, be simple, effective, bold and colourful.





An aerial view of an aircraft carrier's deck. Several aircraft are parked on the deck. One aircraft in the upper right is painted red. The deck is a dark grey color with various markings and structures. The text "BEAT THE BLITZ" is overlaid in a bold, yellow-to-orange gradient font with a halftone pattern.

**BEAT THE BLITZ**

**STRIKE BACK!**



# Activity Suggestions



**Option 1** - Present each scenario and allow some time for student discussion. Take a whole class vote final decision.

**Option 2** - Assign students to one of the roles on the cards shown on the next page. Present scenarios then allow time for debate, discussion and a decision. Decisions could be made by class vote OR a chosen student 'jury'.

Video links are included for after activity extension or extended / flipped learning option.

## RAF Aircrew

You represent the bomber pilots, on board navigators, engineers, gunners, bomb aimers and radio operators.

Your main aims are to complete effective missions AND to make it back home alive.

## Bomber Command

You represent the leadership of RAF Bomber Command. You believe that Hitler and Germany will be defeated with a long term, large bombing campaign.

Your main aim is to win the war by bombing Germany into submission. This is the best way to use RAF resources.

## Winston Churchill

You represent the British Prime Minister and War Cabinet. This war can only be won with the support of the British public.

Your main aim is to keep the British public on side. Keep their spirits up and contributing to a total war effort.

Look for propaganda opportunities.

## Statisticians

You represent the mathematicians, engineers and most logical thinkers of Britain.

Your main aim is to 'crunch the numbers' and make decisions based only on the facts and data hand.

Emotional decision making is not needed!

## The Pacifists

You are pacifists. Conscientious objectors - you are against war and violence.

Your main aim is to prevent conflict and the loss of life - especially the lives of innocent civilians.

## The Jury

You represent the final decision makers. Listen to the discussions and then make a final judgment based on the best arguments.

Ask questions and get clearer explanations from teams in needed.



# SCENARIO 1

FIRST FLIGHTS





# 1939



It is September 1939 and World War 2 has just begun. RAF Bomber Command has 23 squadrons - each with approximately 12 aircraft in a squadron. Most bombers are the twin engine Vickers Wellingtons. They have a range of 1885 miles when flying at 180 MPH. Their top speed was 255 MPH. The RAF also has 306 Spitfire fighter planes with a range of 413 miles and a top speed of 329 MPH.

In comparison the German Luftwaffe has 4733 operational combat aircraft, including bombers and deadly Messerschmitt fighters. German aircraft are generally superior to RAF planes in 1939.

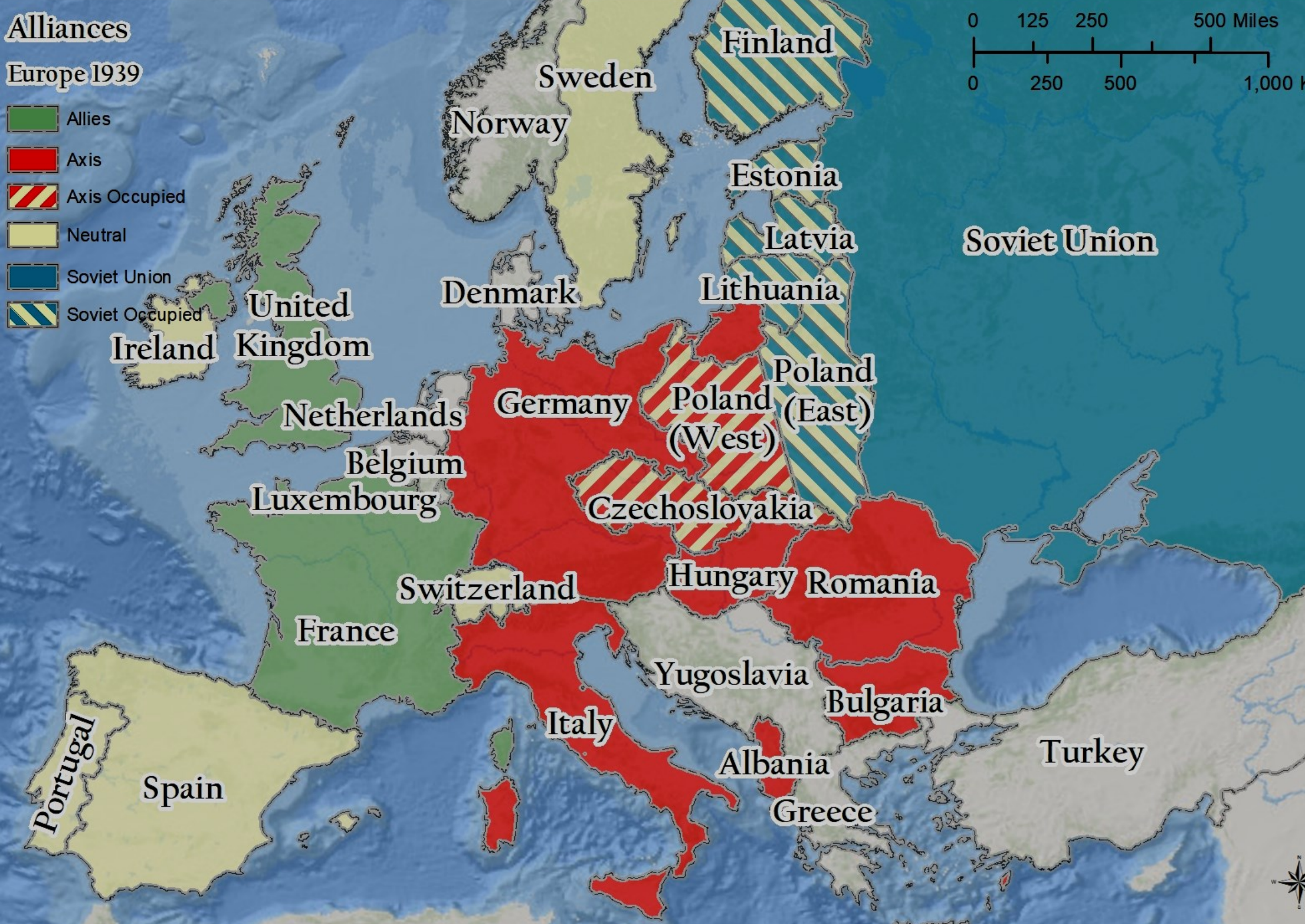
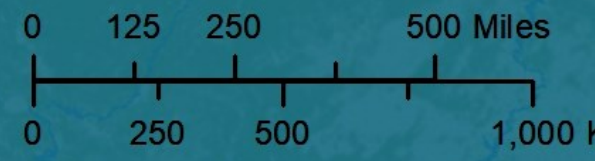
The distance from London to Berlin, Germany is 680 miles. London to Paris is 290 miles.



# Alliances

## Europe 1939

-  Allies
-  Axis
-  Axis Occupied
-  Neutral
-  Soviet Union
-  Soviet Occupied





**1939**

**DISCUSS, DEBATE, DECIDE ...**

**What to do?**

- A** Bomb mainland Germany.
- B** Bomb German shipping + ports.
- C** Wait, for now.

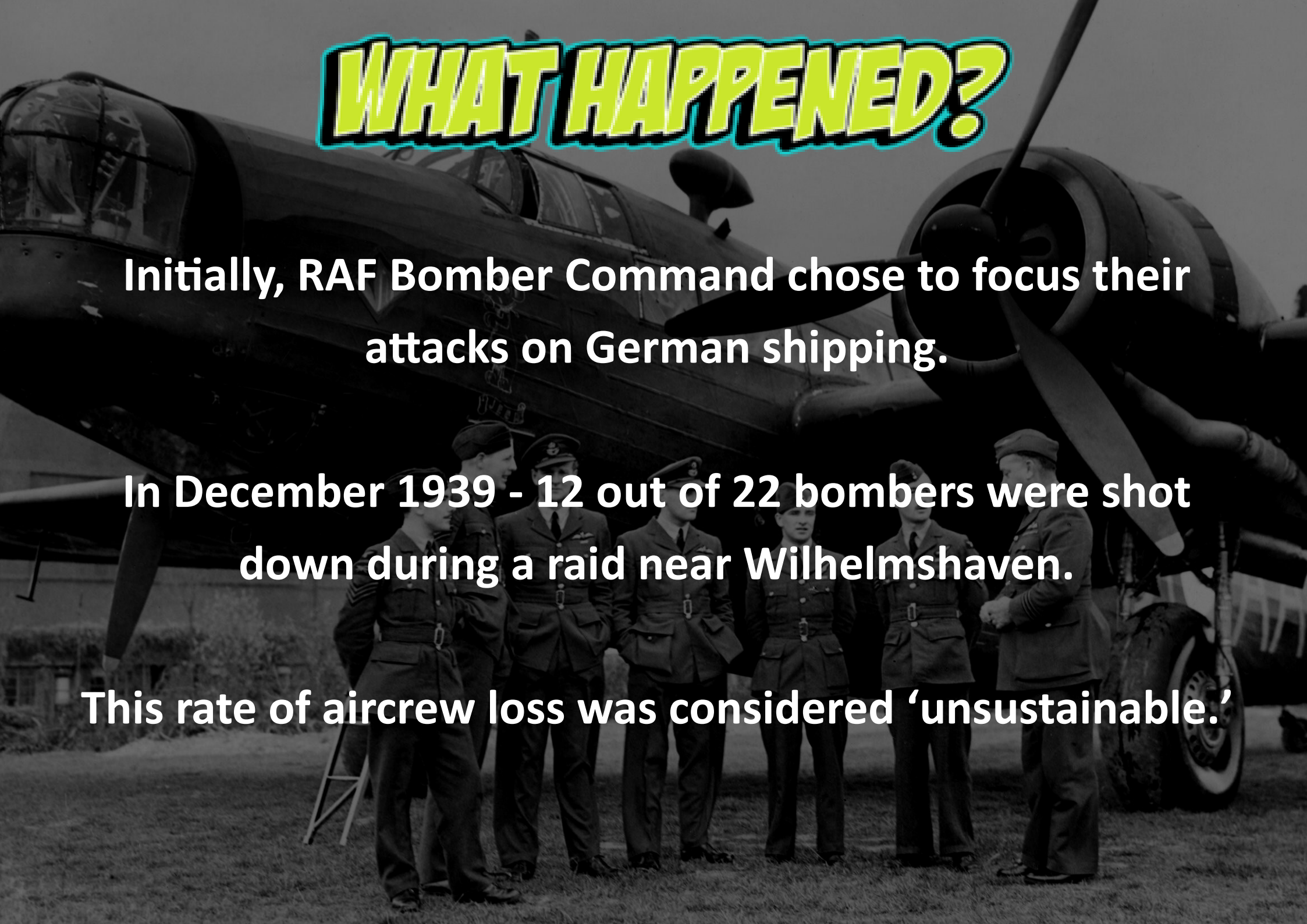


# WHAT HAPPENED?

Initially, RAF Bomber Command chose to focus their attacks on German shipping.

In December 1939 - 12 out of 22 bombers were shot down during a raid near Wilhelmshaven.

This rate of aircrew loss was considered 'unsustainable.'



# SCENARIO 2

STOP LOSSES





**1939**

The RAF are suffering serious losses of aircraft and aircrew. The slow flying bombers are largely unprotected once they leave the range of fighter escorts - they make easy targets for the German Luftwaffe and anti - aircraft guns.

***DISCUSS, DEBATE, DECIDE ...***

**A**

How will you prevent further 'unsustainable' bomber losses?

# WHAT HAPPENED?

At first the Bomber Command tried flying bombers in tighter formations - to make it harder for German fighters to bring them down. This was largely unsuccessful.

Eventually, it was agreed that flying during the daytime was too costly - the best protection was to fly only under the cover of darkness. This came at the cost of bombing accuracy and efficiency.



# The Blitz Sample Pack

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